

Missouri

FFA Today

November/December 2002

Reaching Higher



By Erica Coble

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“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off a goal.” In our lives, each of us are faced with obstacles that challenge us to work harder and in the FFA, students are encouraged to overcome those obstacles.

FFA members like Jake Davis and Jordan Whistance know that no matter how big your obstacle is, if you

believe anything is possible.

When one first meets Jordan Whistance they are greeted with a sunny smile, a friendly hello, and the realization that they have met someone who loves agriculture and the FFA. Whistance, a recent graduate of Halfway High School, has worked hard to succeed in the FFA despite the fact that he has been confined to a wheelchair. His positive attitude toward life and the FFA are inspiring to all who know him.

“I enjoy being a member of the FFA because it is fun, exciting, and you have the chance to learn so many things,” says Whistance.

Whistance has played an active role in the Halfway FFA Chapter, serving as second vice president, treasurer, and secretary. He has also participated in activities such as blood drives and in the Dairy Foods, Nursery, and Farm Management Career Development Events. In addition, Whistance has received his State FFA Degree, State Leadership Medal and

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Where do High School Ag Education Program Graduates go?

- 46% - Continuing education
- 45% - Employed
- 4% - Military
- 5% - Unknown

Highlights from Heather

Do you have people in your life that influence you? When you were young, did you follow your older brother or sister around and imitate his or her every? Or, did you dress up like the super-heroes on T.V. because you wanted to fight evil just like they did? Now that you're older, the people that have a positive influence on you may be your parents, teachers or friends.

The people that have influenced me the most in my life are in my family. My great grandfather did many great things in his life. He fought in World War II, was a Kansas Highway Patrolman, and was sheriff of his county. However, the influence my great-grandpa had on me went far beyond the scope of his achievements. He learned from everything he did in his life. And, the most amazing part was that he took time and made sure that he passed that knowledge on to me. In each situation I find myself in, I strive to learn as much as I can because of what my grandfather taught me.

Think of the people in your life who teach you valuable lessons and make you want to be better at everything you do. Do you take full advantage of those people and the influence they can have on your life? When you receive advice from someone who wants to help you to succeed, do you listen? We are each blessed with someone who can help make us the best we can possibly be. Our job is to listen to those people and learn as much as we can while we have the chance. Whether it's your parents, a teacher, an advisor, a friend or a sibling, take advantage of the place they take in your life and use them as a tool for success.

Now, reverse the role of the people who influence you. Do you have a younger sibling who might look up to you? Or, do you set a positive ex-



Heather Shauck
State President

ample in your school and activities for those students who are younger than you? As you go through your daily routines, remind yourself that in everything you do, you are influencing those around you. The things you say, your actions, the grades you strive to receive, and the attitude you have all reflect who you are, and there may be someone who is trying to be exactly that.

Speaking from the point of view of a younger sibling, I can say that younger brothers or sisters do look up to their older siblings, and who they become is based partly on what they learned from their brother or sister. One of my older brothers has pursued a career in agricultural education. The passion he has for his job and his students inspires me every day to learn all that I can about agriculture and pass that knowledge on the best that I possibly can.

So, when you are in the halls of your school, or at home working on homework, or attending an FFA meeting, remember there are people looking up to you and you have the choice of what kind of an influence you will be on them. We each have the potential for success inside of us, but we do not realize that success alone. The people in our lives help us to be the best we can be and in turn we use the skills that we have to help others become better.

2002/2003

State Officers

Area	Officer
6	Heather Shauck - Pres. Eldon FFA
1	Austin Swafford - 1st V.P. Savannah FFA
7	Serena Ehlers - Secretary El Dorado Springs FFA
	Vice Presidents
2	Ashley Lyon Norborne FFA
3	Kacie Nelson Macon FFA
4	Lee Magruder Clopton FFA
5	David Swaters Lakeland FFA
8	Aaron Hampton Hartville FFA
9	Adam McGee Purdy FFA
10	Sarah Hodges Salem FFA
11	Sarah Loehr St. Clair FFA
12	Garret Rives Woodland FFA
13	Kim Robinson Doniphan FFA
9	Jamie Lile Past President Strafford FFA

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District Supervisors:
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Greenhand Conferences Set for January

A series of Greenhand Motivational Conferences are slated for January 7-10 at locations across the state. The conferences are designed for first year FFA members and will focus on goal setting and motivation, as well as the opportunities that exist in FFA. Check with your local advisor for exact dates and locations.

Leadership Development Institute

A brand new activity is being planned for FFA members in Missouri. Area officers, mark your calendars for June 20-21, 2003. That's the date for the first-ever Area Officer State Leadership Development Institute.

- Prepares area officers for their responsibilities
- Develops personal growth
- Enhances leadership skills
- Instructs workshop preparation

See your chapter advisor for more information.

Hey, high school sophomores!

REMEMBER Missouri Agribusiness Academy Applications are due **February 3.**

Cash in on Your Future By Erica Coble

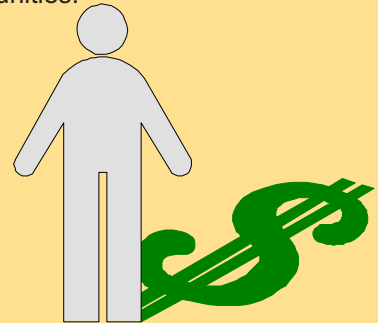
Whether you're looking to earn money for college, learn record keeping skills or prepare for a career in finance, the FFA offers students an abundance of financial opportunities.

FFA prides itself on offering students real life experiences. Through their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program's (SAE), students in agricultural education learn the importance of keeping accurate records. By establishing this practice early, FFA members are able to prepare themselves financially for the future.

Nationwide, FFA members earn \$4 billion annually through their SAE projects. According to Jim Cassity, executive treasurer for the Missouri FFA Association, FFA members here in the State work hard to earn an impressive amount of money each year.

"In 2001, the average SAE income per student in Missouri was \$2,277. Statewide, over \$36 million was generated through SAE programs," says Cassity.

The financial lessons that members learn through their SAE's are carried



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has been the Top Fruit Salesman for his chapter for four years.

Whistance's SAE project consists of swine and equine. He has shown pigs for the past eight years at livestock shows across the state.

Some of Whistance's favorite FFA activities include FFA Camp and CDE's. "I really enjoy getting to travel, meeting people and gaining leadership skills," explained Whistance. When asked who he looked up to the most, Whistance replies, "Micheal Jordan...because he never quits."

Seneca FFA member and University of Missouri sophomore, Jake Davis, joined the FFA his freshman year. He was inspired to do this by his family who had strong roots in agriculture and older brothers who were members of the FFA. Davis started his FFA career in Ag I and was

strongly influenced by his Ag teacher, Mr. Enslow. One way that Jake has been challenged in life is by a vision defect at birth that has restricted his vision. However, Davis has been challenged and determined to succeed even more.

"FFA Camp my freshman year was a major turning point for me. I was really inspired by the State Officers, Brian Heuring and Sally Greene. They had never met me before but treated and respected me much more than most people ever had. It was the same with the all of my peers who were at camp that week as well. I think that's when I realized that FFA members were different and this organization was something special," explains Davis.

After FFA Camp, Davis was determined to keep the FFA experience

going and wanted to get involved in as many events as possible.

"I tried CDE's such as livestock, dairy, horses and soils. These CDE's could have been restrictive if I would have let them, but I was determined to get the experience and stretch my options. While I did those contests for the experience, I also did contests I knew I could excel at. Things like Knowledge, speaking and leadership roles were my passion in the FFA," says Davis.

Davis had the opportunity to serve as the 2000-01 Area 7 State Vice President during his senior year in high school.

"FFA took me out of my comfort zone. I can have had the chance to travel to anywhere around the U.S. and know that I can because the FFA has given me that confidence," explains Davis.

Davis, an Ag Education major, hopes to continue involvement in agriculture and inform others about issues important to agriculture and helping youth.

"I feel as though society as a whole doesn't expect much out of people with disabilities. I live with a disability, but feel like it has made me a better person. Everyone has obstacles to overcome and I feel good that I know what mine is and know how to overcome it," says Davis.

The FFA provides students with many opportunities to succeed no matter who they are or from where they come. Davis encourages FFA members who have physical restrictions to be proud of who they are and realize how much the FFA helps everyone develop skills to be an effective employer.

"I don't feel as though anyone who has a disability should hide it. In fact, they should expect more out of themselves and set their expectations higher. I am not going to let anything stop me; I want to be President of the United States someday," says Davis.

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Building Partnerships

From new generation cooperatives to state agency coalitions, partnerships are vital to the success of Missouri agriculture.

This year's Governor's Conference on Agriculture - scheduled for Nov. 17-19 at Tan-Tar-A Resort - will focus on building productive partnerships to achieve success and overcome challenges.

Gov. Bob Holden will open the conference on Nov. 18. Dr. Lowell Catlett, an economist, futurist, and professor at New Mexico State University, will take a futuristic look at American agricultural alliances. Jim Gulliford, EPA's Region VII administrator, will share his views on how EPA can build partnerships with Missouri producers, regulators, interest groups and others to

resolve agricultural and environmental issues in Missouri.

Another session will focus on "How Today's Youth Are Shaping the Future of Agriculture." FFA, 4-H, Missouri Agribusiness Academy and the Governor's Youth Cabinet representatives will discuss their role in shaping Missouri agriculture.

Among other sessions:

- Keeping Pace with Progress - The Livestock Market Advisory Committee will make its recommendations for improving Missouri's livestock production and marketing.

- * 2003 Legislative Overview - Legislators will examine the key agricultural issues that will be debated during the next legislative session.

Once again, the conference will host

the final competition in the annual Missouri Agricultural Products for the 21st Century Contest, a team contest that gives FFA students experience in developing marketing plans for AgriMissouri companies and products.

An AgriMissouri reception, featuring a buffet of Missouri-made foods and beverages, will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Nov. 17.

The conference is \$140 per person and \$230 per couple. The registration fee includes all programs, meals, and entertainment, but not lodging. Room reservations should be made directly with Tan-Tar-A Resort (800) 826-8272.

For more information on the conference or to register, write the Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or call toll-free 1-877-398-3305.

A Helping Hand

By Austin Swafford
State 1st V.P.

Coming from a family of teachers, I knew growing up how they can assist you throughout life. I still remember the nights during contest season my mother would let me stay up past my bedtime just so I was able to see my dad. My dad, Dean Swafford, is the agriculture instructor at Savannah High School. I would always ask Mom where he was and her answer was always the same - "He is helping other students."

Now that I have completed my four year of high school and after assist-

ing him on countless farm visits these words have never rang so clearly. Never once did I ever see my father turn down the chance to



work on a contest team or aid a student on expanding his or her SAE.

FFA members you have a perfect opportunity to make a body that will last a lifetime. Your advisor is here to help you by any means possible. It might be working on a contest team or brainstorming ideas to make your SAE more profitable. One of the biggest advantages to

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Goals - Action - Perseverance

By Serena Ehlers
State Secretary

This year will be a year full of excitement and opportunities. Opportunities are everywhere if we will just look around. Have you ever wondered how you can make the most of every opportunity? The road to success can be easier with a plan. One way of having a plan is to set goals for yourself as an individual and within your chapter.

Goals

Goals are like the roadmap to success. We never get into a car and just start driving without a destination in mind. Goals are very important to our success. They give us a plan for where we are going. It is kind of hard to go into action without a plan.

Action

Lights, camera, ACTION! Throughout time, many of us have said we are going to do "something" but rarely ever get to that "something". Benjamin Franklin once said, "Well done is better than well said." This quote means more than most of us think. Action is also important in achieving our goals.

Perseverance

When we put our plans into action, sometimes things don't turn out the way we expect them to. We should always remember to never give up. Life is full of obstacles, but everyone has it within himself or herself to overcome those obstacles. Henry Ford once said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when



you take your eyes off your goals." Keep your eyes on your goals and you can and will achieve your anything.

I have an older sister who set a goal during her high school career to play volleyball in college. She put her plan into ACTION. Her years were filled with open gyms, summer camps, and out-of-town volleyball clubs. Not hearing from any coaches her senior year, she was very discouraged. She continued playing with a volleyball club and making phone calls. One month before graduation, she heard from a college. She was successful because she set a goal, put her plan into action, but also didn't give up.

FFA members, this is your time. Right here, Right NOW! Make use of every second. The road to success is never guaranteed to be free of bumps and obstacles. Always remember to set your goals, go into action, and NEVER GIVE UP! What do you want to accomplish in the next week, next month, or maybe the next year? The future is yours. Take a hold of your opportunities and reach for success!

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A Helping Hand -

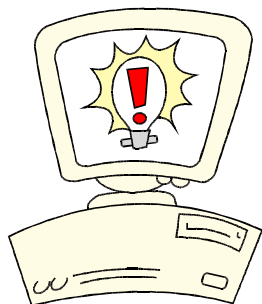
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having a strong bond with your instructor is your future. I cannot count all the phone calls my father made for students to colleges or the number of times he said he would be a reference for a job interview.

Even past high school graduation, many FFA members continue to seek the assistance of their advisor. Just recently my father had a 35-year-old former student call him to get his advice on purchasing show lambs for his daughter. I don't know of any other professionals that are willing and able to provide you with advice and wisdom whenever you need it. No matter the question, the agriculture education instructor is there with an answer.

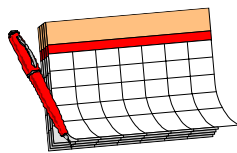
The challenge is now yours. FFA members, your advisor is here to help. After you have taken full advantage of his or her assistance, say thanks. Nothing makes my Dad more proud than when a successful former student calls him up or sees him at a store and just says thank you for doing his job.

The hand is there to help; grab hold and hang on.



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on the web

[www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/
agricultural_ed_index.htm](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/agricultural_ed_index.htm)



FFA Calendar

November

- 11 SMSU Ag Scholarship & Awards Banquet - Spfd.
- 10-12 State PAS Convention - Inn @ Grand Glaize
- 12 NE District Speaking Contests - South Shelby
- 12 SC District Speaking Contests - Rolla
- 13 Central District Speaking Contests - CMSU, Warrensburg
- 14 SE District Speaking Contests - Dexter
- 14 SW District Speaking Contests - SMSU, Spfd.
- 17-19 Gov. Conf. on Agriculture - Tan-Tar-A, Lake Ozark
- 20 NW District Speaking Contests - Savannah

December

- 1 United Sportsmen League Wildlife Cons. Grant Apps. DUE
- 1 MU Scholarship Apps. DUE
- 8 Farm Bureau FFA Speaking Finals - Tan-Tar-A, Lake Ozark
- 12-15 Mo. Cattlemen's Assoc. Convention - Tan-Tar-A, Lake Ozark
- 14 Mo. Sheep Producers FFA Speaking Finals - Columbia
- 15 MDC Wildlife Conservation Grant Apps. DUE
- 20 Ag Literacy for Missouri Contest Entry Deadline

Chapter Chatter

Northwest District - Pattonsburg
Pattonsburg FFA members recently finished its annual hog roast. The fundraiser was held during the town's antique car show. A barnwarming is also planned for this fall and the chapter will sell fruit for a fundraiser.

Southwest District - Dadeville
FFA members in Dadeville will be helping needy children this holiday season through either the Toys for Tots campaign or the Angel Tree program. Members are also raising money for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and will go Christmas caroling in the community.

Central District - Appleton City
Appleton City FFA members recently held a hay ride and barnwarming. Chapter members also conducted a pedal tractor pull during Appleton City's October Fest. The chapter has about 80 members in grades 9 through 12.

Northeast District - Mexico AVTS
FFA members in Mexico are busy planning a harvest festival set for November. The event will feature a cowboy poet and a chuckwagon dinner and dance. Members have also nearly doubled its fundraising efforts this year through modifying its marketing strategy.

South Central District - Maries Co.
Maries Co. FFA members are going crazy over trap shooting. The chapter has participated this fall in meets in Hermann and Pacific. Members are also gearing up for a fish fry and barnwarming in November.

Southeast District - Neelyville
Harvest was recently completed at Neelyville FFA's hay farm. The chapter harvests and markets its own hay on land owned by the school. FFA members also recently took second place in the poultry judging contest at the Mid-South Fair in Memphis.

Cash in on Your Future - Continued from Page C

with them through the rest of their lives. Marshall FFA member, Matt Yokely, says that his experiences in the FFA not only provided him with scholarship money for college, but also have helped him to manage his finances during his first year of college at the University of Missouri.

"FFA has been good to me in the fact that I was able to earn scholarship money from my FFA chapter which helped me pay for college and take some of the financial burden off of my family. All of those years filling out record books gave me a great foundation that now helps me to keep track of my money and finances in college," explains Yokely.

Many FFA members go on to pursue careers in the area of finance. Nathan Chitwood, Community and Business Programs Specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Rural Development Center in Columbia says that FFA has helped prepare him for his current job.

"FFA gave me a basic understanding of the agriculture and rural community, taught me public speaking skills and networking. It also helped me to understand finances and record keeping," notes Chitwood.

If you're planning on returning to the farm, you will not only need the record keeping skills taught to you by the FFA, but you will also need financing. Chitwood says that the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan Program. The loan is designed to help individuals or entities who have operated a farm for more than 10 years. Loans from \$200,000 to \$759,000 are available. For more information on this loan program visit the FSA website at

www.fsa.usda.gov.

A Beginning Farmer Loan program is also available through the Missouri Department of Agriculture for individuals who are 18 years and older and wish to purchase agricultural land, farm buildings, farm equipment and breeding livestock. Loans for up to \$250,000 are available and more information can be obtained by visiting the State Department's web site at www.mda.state.mo.us.

Financial planning is a crucial part of success in any endeavor. By striving to achieve success in all students, the FFA helps to prepare students for a financially sound future. Through scholarships, loans and practical application, the FFA will help you to cash in on your full potential.

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